

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 4 and 7 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 presently stand rejected.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 6 would be in condition for allowance if rewritten to overcome the §112, second paragraph rejection, and if rewritten in independent form. Applicants amend claim 5 accordingly, and, thus, claims 5-6 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fischer (6,773,030).

Analysis

The present invention according to claim 1 includes a "cloth-like piece does not close the vent hole in a state wherein the other end is retained". That is, in the present application, gas is constantly discharged from the vent hole from the beginning of inflating the air bag until the other end of the cloth-like piece is released.

In Fischer's air bag, in contrast, only when three vent openings 72, 54, and 42 are aligned with each other (Fig. 2), and air can flow through the vent. Thus, during the early stages of inflating the air bag, gas is not discharged (Fig. 1). Accordingly, Fischer's air bag fails to have the advantage that "the airbag 2 is expanded while an impactive expansion directing toward the occupant is eased" as disclosed in the present application (see pages 16-17 of the originally filed specification), at least during the early stages of inflating the air bag.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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